Agamst Women

¶ Heer begin neth the Schole house of women wherin euery man may read a good ly praise of the conditions of women.

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¶ Anno Domini, M.D.LXXII.

Thomas Newtons

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

4° C. 39 Art. Seld. (16) - 305
S. Selden d. 45 (16)

¶ The prouerb olde, whoso denieth
In my conceit, dooth greatly erre
Bothe wit and discretion, if he applieth
That thing of truthe, would debarre
How beit that folke, presume so far
Wherby the truthe, is often blamed
Yet in no wise, truthe may be shamed
¶ A foole of late, contrued a booke
And all in praise of the femynie
Who so taketh labour, it to ouer looke
Shall proone all is but flattery.
Whan he calleth it, it may wel be
The Peacock is proudest of his faire taile
And so ar all women, of their apparail
¶ Wherfore as now in this treatise
What so be said, in rude sentence
Vertue to increace, and to lay vice
Is cheef occasion, of my pretence
And where that trueth is, is none offence
Who so therfore, that blameth me
I say he deemeth wrongfully
¶ Perchaunce the women, take displeasure
Bycause I rub them, on the gall
To them that good be, paraduenture
It shall not bee material
The other sorte, no force at all
Say what they will, or bendeth the brewes
Them selues shall proue my sayings true
¶ The other man, in generall
and namely those that maried be
Giue euident, testimoniall
Affirming the same if I would ly
And thus reporte, that feminy
Been euel to please, and worse to trust

Crabbed

Crabbed & combrous, when them self lust
¶ Haue tung at large, voice loud and shrill
Of words wounderous passing store
Stomacke stout, with froward wil
And namely when you touch the sore
With one bare word, or litle more
They flush and flame as hote as fire
And swel as a tode for faruent ire.
¶ And when they hear one word that soūdeth
Little against their lewd behauiour
And twise so muche els, which ẏ redoundeth
To their high praise, ye may be sure
So light of eare they be and sowre
That of the better they neuer record
The worse reherce they word by word
¶ It were much hurt for to discry
The properties all of the feminy kinde
How be it a man may coniecture ny
And say also as experience doth binde
That very few ther be to finde
But that they can how so euer the matter stand
Beare fire and water bothe in one hand
¶ Enuasions they haue both faint and feeble
Them to excuse of duplicity
As though they were inuincible
Spotted in any wise to be
And with othes so craftely
They shalbe forged on such a ground
As all things were bothe whole and sound
¶ And be it ernest or els in Jape
Lo to them it is one maner of thing
Surely nought els they after gape
But euer more in comming
To tel a man of his saying

306

Reason will they not attend
But tel their owne tale to the end
¶ And for to say moste commonly
This vice is appropriat to them all
For let a man to them replye
In reasoning of matters small
These women be so sensuall
That be their reason not worth a torde
yet will the woman haue the last woord.
¶ There may no reason theirs debar
Nor none example can them conuert
they study allgate to be at war
And with euel sawes to be ouerthwart
Malice is so rooted in their hart
That seldome a man may of them hear
One good woord in a whole long yeer.
¶ All beit the number of them be great
yet dooth their foly far exceed
For all is fish that commeth to net
In case that they of their mirade speed
Brooch, ring, cloth or threed
Shame haue they none to ter or snatch
All is their owne that they may catch
¶ What so it be they finger once
Of wedded man or single plain
Ye may as soon eat the adamant stones
as the self same of them to retain
Much they craue and nought giue again
as holsome for a man is a womans corse
As a chaulder of mutton for a sick horse.
¶ And yet we may not them long misse
For many sundry commodities
So trick a way they haue to kisse
With open mouth and rowling eyes

Tung to tung. diſcloſe thies
One and other commonly
Haue in ſuch caſe like pꝛopertie
¶ That hard it were in mine opinion
If God him ſelf would company keep
But they would bꝛing him dꝑon
Waking oꝛ eis a ſleep
Diſpleaſe them once and then they weep
By meane wherof ſone dooth the cure
Yung fooles to keep long in vꝛe.
¶ And while the wooing time dooth laſt
I meane with them that maidens be
Loth to diſpleaſe loeue ſure and faſt
Are what ye wil and ſpeed may ye
Few oꝛ none foꝛ the moſte partye
Gently entreated, deny you can
within her tables to enter your man
¶ That doon they ſay that ye did make
Pꝛomiſe to them by good aſſuraunce
Them to marꝛy and to wiues take
Eis had ye not had ſuch daliaunce
And all is foꝛ feaꝛ of good beteraunce
In caſe the belly doo not ſwel
They holde them pleaſd and all is wel
¶ Yet muſt ye be at farther daunger
If ye doo intend to vſe them oft
Keep them bothe at rack and maunger
aray them wel and lay them ſoft
yet ſhall another man come aloft
Haue you once turned your eye and back
An other ſhe wil haue to ſnick and ſmack
¶ Perchaunce the belly may riſe with all
Then wil they ſweare and ſtare a pace
that thine is it, when it dooth fall

Be it malary borne by bhe
Looke they say on thine owne face
Beholde wel bothe nose and eye
Nature it felt the father will trye
¶ An other ther is to linguler grace
Giuen vnto the babe for the one
Or sure it is a meruelous face
that God hath giuen vnto the mone
For were they .vi. they must each one
Look they straight either els a shore
Be like the father lesse and more.
¶ And when they are once waxen small
And able to rise or els to go
Unto like act againe they fall
As who would say you felt no wo
yf ye renounce kindnes to bo
Then must ye send the to nun straung place
as good a maid as she before was.
¶ Then if there come a louer new
And them appoynt whether to come
They be like ready vnto the mew
and to be close from wind and sun
With litle labour they ar soon wonne
Not one I warrant you amongs twenty
But the eft soones wil be as redy
¶ Wed them once and then adue.
Farwel all trust and husbifery
Keep their chambers and them self mew
For staining of their kisnamy
and in their bed all day doo lye
Must once or twise enery week
fain them self for to be sick
¶ Send for this and send for that
Little or nothing may them please

Come in good gossip and keep me chat
I trust it shall doo me great ease
Complain of many a sundry disease
a gossips cup between vs twain
Til we be gotten vp again
¶ Then must she haue maidens two or thrēe
That may then gossips togither bring
Set them to labour to blere the eye
Them self wil neither wash ne wring
Bake ne brue nor any thing
Sit by the fire let the maidens trot
Brew of the best in a halfpeny pot
¶ Play who wil the man must labour
And bring to house all that he may
The wife again dooth nought but glauour
and holde him vp with yea and nay
But of her cup he shall not assay
Other she saith it is to thin
Or els iwis there is nothing in.
¶ And when these gossips are once met
Of euery tale and new riding
they hable fast and nothing forget
They put I warrant between riding
Thus learne the yunger of the elders guiding
Day by day keeping such Scooles
The simple men they make as fooles.
¶ Them selues alway doo make good cheer
With one or other they neuer rest
Our John shall pay that is not best
How say ye gossip, is it not best
I beshrew his hart now is he blest
He beat me gossip I may tel you
that yet I am bothe black and blew
¶ Thus out it shall what so it be

Good

308

Good or bad all is one thing
Who so euer commeth to memory
Shall not he look for the telling!
God wot they make many a leasing
It dooth their stomacks greatly ease
To serue what may their husbands displease
¶ The yung complaineth vnto the olde
Somewhat to ease their harts therby
The elder saith good gossip be bolde
to shew your minde wholy to me
Fear it not ye knowe pardy
That I haue been bothe olde and yung
Bothe close and sure of taile and tung
¶ Then saith the yunger I may tel you
I am so matched as no woman is
Of all this night til the cock crew
he would not once turn, me for to kisse
Euery night he riseth for to pisse
And when he commeth again vnwarme
Dooth then his arse into my barme
¶ Lappeth him self round all about
and thrusteth me out of my place
Leueth me scantly one rag or cloat
to couer and cast ouer my face
Ful little maner gossop he hase
the moste vnkindest man haue I
That euer woman laid her by.
¶ And be the day neuer so long
he dooth nothing but chide and brawle
Yea, yea gossip the more is my wrong
Whore and harlot he dooth me call
and bids me gossip scrape and scrall
And for my liuing labour and swete
For as of him no peny I get

¶ I was a curst ozels stark mad
and when I maried with him vnwise
I may tel you I might haue had
Another maner of man then he is
If I had folowed my freends aduise
I should haue had a minion
A man of land a gentleman.
¶ The Deuil gossip ought me a shame
And paid I am now euery peny
I would God he had been blinde and lame
The day and houre he first wooed me
Were not gossip these Children three
I would not tary ye may be sure
longer with him day ne houre.
¶ Then said the elder doo as I doo
Be sharp and quick with him again
If that her chide, chide you also
And for one woord giue him twain
Keep him short and haue disdain
He should vse you after such a race
Bid him be stil with an euel date.
¶ Cherish your self all that you may
And draw vnto good company
Cast not your self gossip away
Because he playeth the churle with thee
And by your wil keep him hungry
And bid him go when he would game
Unto his customers God giue him shame.
¶ Be euer with him at yea and nay
And by your wil begin the war
If he would smite then may you say
Go to hardely if thou dare
I defie thy hart if thou spare
All the woorld shall wunder on thee

How thou doost wreke thy teen of me.
¶ Because thou hast been at the dise
And played away all that thou hast
Or from thy gillots thou couldst not arise
Of all this day ye sat so fast
and now God giue the shame at last
Commest drunken home with a mischeef
and wouldst be reuenged vpon thy wife.
¶ Better iwis to holde thy hand
and more for thine honestye
I had leuer thy neck were in a band
Then I would take it long of thee
Trust me I wil finde remedye
Smite and thou dare I make God auow
I wil quite it I wot wel how.
¶ In case there be no remedye
But that you must haue strokes sad
Take vp the bade that then is nye
Be it wench or be it lad
and bid him strike if he be mad
Smite hardly and kil thy Sonne
and hang therfore when thou hast doon.
¶ Thus euer among they keep such schooles
The yung to drawe after the olde
Meeting euer vpon their stooles
Of euery matter that they haue would
By meane wherof the yung wax bolde
So that within a month they be
Quarter maister or more then he
¶ Truely some men there be
That liue alway in great honour
and say it gooeth by destenye
To hang or wed bothe haue but one houre
and whether it be I am vncure

Hanging

Hanging is the better of the twain
Sooner doon and shorter pain
¶ On pilgremage, then must they go
To Wilsdon, barking, or to some hallowes
Perchaunce be foorth a night or two
On foot for wearing of horse shoes
A viage make vnto the stewes
and neither kneel to stones ne stocks
But the offring take, with a quick box,
¶ Sometime also licence they craue
To be w some neighbour in the midwiues sted
And all to the end some other knaue
Shall dub her husband a summer bird
The trueth is knowen it can not be hid
all beit that few men doo him hear
The Cucko singeth all the yeer
¶ They haue also an other cast
In case the husband be present
The childe I warrant shalbe bast
and to her louer therewith sent
The selyman none euel ment
Regardeth little or nothing this
How by the babe she sends her bisse
¶ And that she would be reconed true
The matter to cloke more craftely
Her kinsman call him I warrant you
and all to bleve the husbands eye
God wot the blinde eateth many a flye
So dooth the husband often twits
Father the childe that is not his.
¶ Trim them self euery day new
and all to blere the husbands eye
Plat and plant and their heres hew
and all to make it for the eye.

The fineſt ware that they may bye
and all that euer they may imagine
Is to alure the maſculine.
¶Plant them round with many a pin
Ringed for routing of pure golde
Fair without and foule within
and of their tailes haue ſlipper holde
Bye who wil, ware wil be ſolde
Ye need go no farther the fair is heer
Bye when ye liſt it laſteth ouer yeer
¶Spare for no coſt but drink of the beſt
and alſo of euery dainty eat
Hot in operation and light to digeſt
Nature to prouoke and ſet on a heat
Oyſters Cockles and eis what they may get
Now this now that and fain them ſelf ſick
Such things to receiue as for the Phiſick.
¶By meanes wherof, Tireſias
Arbither chuſe the trueth to diſcus
Giue iudgement plain in this caſe
That the woman is far more lecherous
Gallus gallinus ter quinq; ſufficit vnus:
Sed ter quinque viri
Non ſufficiunt mulieri.
¶In caſe they would ought of you craue
a non they weep and lower apace
And ſay that they can nothing haue
Them to apparel as other wiues haſe
truſt not ouer much their mourning face
Record inough of Sampſons two wiues
Who foloweth their mindes ſeldome thriues.
¶All beit the birder with his blered eye
Diſſemble ſorowe with his ſad face
Yet is there no birde he may come by

By his engines that may haue grace
By women it foloweth in semblable case
Weep they or laugh they all is one thing
They dele moste craftely when they be wepping.
¶ And yet among who so wil thriue
and office here in town and Citty
Must needs be ruled by his wiue
Or els in fay it wil not be
The wife must able him to the degree
able or vnable little careth shee
Because her self would honoured be.
¶ Fear not she saith vnto her spouse
A man or a Mouse whether be ye
Should ye your honesty refuse
and be as like as other men bee
In person and in eche degree
Take it vpon you doo not refuse
and I my self wil finde your house.
¶ So by that meane of her counsail
The man may not the office forsake
Because the wife would haue a tail
Come raking after and a bonet black
a Veluet hed and also be take
with the best and not with the wurst
The man must be ruled til all be in the dust.
¶ Of all the diseases that euer woze
Wedding is next vnto the goute
a salue there is for euery soze
To help a man within or without
But of these twaine I am in dout
No pain so feruent hot ne colde
As is a man to be a Cuckolde.
¶ And be he neuer so fearful to fease
So stark a coward yet wil he rage

And draw his knife euen straight way
Be he neuer so far in age
Call him once Cucholde and his courage
Forthwith wil kindle and force him strike.
Curse then ye named him heretike
¶ And sith there is no salue therfore
It puteth many a man in fear
To be infect with the self same sore
How wel so euer they them bere
Good token haue they also els where
That who so euer weddeth a wife
Is sure of sorow all his life.
¶ Of Socrates the pacient
Example good of his wiues twain
Which on a time fel at dissent
and vnto him did them complain
He laughed therat and they again
Fel bothe on him with an euel date
A pispot they brake vpon his pate.
¶ He held him pleased and wel content
The pisse ran down by his cheeks twain
Wel wist I (said he) what it ment
and true it is that all men sain
That after thunder commeth rain
Who hath a wife is sure to finde
at home in his house many a sower winde
¶ A certain wife said to me once
I would thou knew it God made vs
Neither of Earth stock ne stones
But of a thing much precious
Of a rib of a man Scripture sates thus
Because the woman in euery need
Should be like the man in word and deed.
¶ Man made of Earth, and woman of man

As of a thing moste pzincipall
Which argueth wel saith she then
By iudgement iust and reason naturall
That we be euer substanciall,
And yet ye men of vs bable
that women alwaies, are variable
¶ Which thing as far as I see can
Should be imployd rather to you
Sith of the Earth God create man
And figures therof maketh euer new
Nature thus naturall, me seemeth now
Must needs his first originall
Ensue or be vnnaturall.
¶ As ye say (said I) help him wel
Euel to thziue and wozse to fare
Who was the cause that Adam fel
His wife or no, I make you ware
One and other listle ye care
So ye may haue that ye desire
Though dun and the pack lye in the mire
¶ Made of a bone ye said ye were
The trueth it is I cannot deny
Crooked it was stif and sturdy
And that would bend no maner of way
Of nature like I dare wel say
Of that condition all women be
Euel to rule bothe stif and sturdy
¶ And ouer that who listeth to trye
Put me two bones in a bag
Or mo as it is of quantitie
That doon holde it somewhat sag
Shake it also that it may wag
And ye shall hear none other matter
Of these bones but clitter clatter.

¶ Like so of women in feeld and town
Assembled where that many be
A man may hear them by the sown
Farther then them ye may see
Wherfore men say moste commonly
Where many geese be, be many toords
and where be women, are many woords.
¶ And so the husband is like to haue
A singuler treasure of his wife
He needeth neuer an il woord to crue
all the dayes of his long life
Hath not that man a perogatife
That may all way of his wife haue
A thing of nought and it not craue.
¶ And commonly where cause is none
Some thing imagined is kept in store
which that she may come the good man home
With spiteful spite lay him before
Of little or naught they make much more
and be it true or false they tel
All is soothed as the Gospel.
¶ And yet the rib as I suppose
That God did take out of the man
a Dog vptaught and away gose
Eat it clene so that as than
The woork to finish that God began
Could not be as we haue said
Because the Dog the rib conuaid.
¶ A remedy God found as yet,
Out of the dog he took a rib
The woman foorth with he made of it
As to the man neither kin nor rib
Nature she foloweth and playeth the gib
and at her husband dooth bare and ball

As dooth the Cur for nought at all
¶ A nother reason if ye mark wel
Dooth cause the woman of woords be riue
A certain man as fortune fel
a woman tungles wedded to wiue
Whose frowning countenaũce perceiuing by liue
Til he might knowe what she ment he thought
and wished ful oft she had a tung. (long
¶ The Deuil was redy and appeered anon
an aspin lefe he did the man take
And in her mouth should put but one
a tung said the deuil it shall her make
Til he had doon his hed did ake
Leaues he gathered and took plentie
and in her mouth put two or three.
¶ Within a while the medicine wrought
The man could tary no longer time
But wakened her to the end he mought
The vertue knowe of the medicine
the first woord she spake to him
She said thou whoresonne knaue, and theef
How durst thou waken me with a mischeef
¶ From that day forward she neuer ceased
Her boistrous bable greeued him sore
The Deuil he met and him intreated
To make her tungles as she was before
Not so said the deuil I wil meddle no more
I Deuil a woman to speak may constrain
But all that in hel be, cannot let it again.
¶ And by proof dayly we see
What inclination nature maketh
The aspin lefe hanging where it be
With little winde or none it shaketh
a womans tung in like wise taketh

313

Litle ease and litle rest
For if it should the hart would brest
¶ Look when the Sea dooth water want
Nor no winde bloweth the mil to walke
Then Ethna hil of fire is scant
the Crowe is white and black is Chalke
When women wil cease of their talke
It is like propertye all women to bable
As dogges to bathe, and geese to gagle.
¶ And that more is, all men say
That woman to man is moste comfort
How beit they meane it a nother way
And say she is mans bitter extort
and ouer that by iust report
The smaller pease, the mo to the pot
The fairer woman the more gillot.
¶ The fairer of face the prouder of hart
the lother to wo the sooner wun
The lesse of speech the more ouerthwart
Not one so daungerous as fil dame dun
The fowler she is the sooner it is doon
So short of heel they be euer all
That if ye blowe they must needs fall
¶ By meane wherof all men report
And say that women can not be stable
For be one gone an other resort
And prefereth them thing seruiable,
Our filly is fetled vnto the saddle
Ride who wil shod is the Mare
and thus they exchaunge ware for ware.
¶ In case thou wouldst not haue it so
But rather finde euery thing well
I councel thee before thou go
Forth of the town to crowch and kneel

And offer a Candel to the deuil
Percase thy wife would be releued
He would forfet it all be schewed.
¶ Example therof that was this
A certain man from home should ride
Which fearing his wife would doo amisse
To an Image of Sathan vpon a walles side
Offred a candle and that was espied
and said sir Sathan now I charge thee
Thy wife in my absence that thou ouer see.
¶ His iorney ended came home again
And the self Image went straight vnto
The Deuil him shewed euery thing plain
How he had let that should haue be doo
and from her backward drawen one or twoo
The daungerous cure that euer he had
Was to keep good that would haue be bad
¶ An other thing as principall
Be not with her in Jalosye
What misaduenture so euer befall
Forbid her no mannes companye
Nor yet rebuke her singulerly
In case thou doo though thou hadst sworne
A blast shalt thou blowe in Minerus horne
¶ For as we see by experience
Euery day before our eye
And by report of men of credence
For the moste part the feminie
By their innatiue disaynye
First and formoste when they be chyld
Wil that thing doo they be forbid.
¶ And ouer that thy wife present
I councel thee bewise and ware
Thou praise no other mannes instrument

Better then thine owne herring ware
For if thou doo she wil not spare
Were it neuer so naturall a fool
til she assaie the selfsame tool
¶ So frail they be of disposicion
So crooked, so crabbed, and with that so euil
So lewd so shrewd, light of condition
That sure it were vnpossible
to let them of their owne self wil
And but it come of their owne mínde
a man were as good throwe stones in ỹ winde
¶ Say what ye wil they wil doo as they lust
The proof therof in a certain fable
I husband man hauing good trust
His wife to him had be agreable
Thought to attempt if she had be reformable
Bad her take the pot that sod ouer the fire
and set it aboue vpon the attire
¶ She aunswered him I holde thee mad
and I moze fool by Saint Martine
Thy dinner is redy as thou me bad
and time it were that thou shouldst dine
And thou wil not I wil go to mine
I bid thee (said he) here vp the pot
Ha (she said) I trowe thou dote.
¶ Up she goeth foz fear at last
No question mooued where it should stand
Upon his hed the pottage she cast
and heeld the pot stil in her hand
And toward him she curst and band
Said and swoze he might her trust
She would with the pottage do what her lust
¶ No remedy foz to discontent
To prattle to them of reason oz lawe

For be a womans purpose bent
Nothing preuaileth to withdraw
Nor yet to keep them vnder awe
Giue them councel the best ye can
they wil folow their owne wil now and than.
¶ Look of discretion, few womanly
and to thee were few profitable
Not three I dare say among thirty
That be discreet and resonable
And yet alwaies they bible bable
Of euery matter and make it nise
and in conclusion be wunderous penich
¶ As holy as Saints in Church they be
and in street as Angels they were
At home for all their hipocrisie
a Deuilish life they lede all the yeer
When Lent commeth then to the freer
The fryer limlikter for a pray of pence
Wil for all causes with them dispence.
¶ And that more is I dare auow
That if the wife displeasure take
Be it right or wrong yet thou
Must needs of force for thy wiues sake
Fight and fray and hie woords crake
Swere and stare as who would say
Thou wouldst not let to fa kil a qualay.
¶ In case thou take the matter right
as a man of peace loue and concord
Then wil she weep anon foorth right
and giue thee many an euil woord
And bid thee gird to thee thy swoord
and say if I had maried a man
This thing should not be long vnden.
¶ Record the wicked Iesabel

Which would haue slain good Helias
Record also of the Gospel
The wife of Philip Herodias
which through her doughter brought to passe
That Herod her graunted or that they wist
To giue her the hed of Iohn baptist.
¶ Thus where them self may little doo.
As in regard of corporall might
Of cruelnesse they rest not so
But stir their husbands for to fight
The prouerb olde accordeth right
Women and dogges cause much strife
and mosse occasion to mischeef.
¶ In case that thou so foolish be
For thy wiues woords to make a brall
If it so fortune that she doo it see
Regardeth little what may befall
the first thing that she dooth of all
On thee she runneth and holdeth thee still
whiles that an other may thee kil.
¶ And if it chaunce any vnkinde woord
Escape thy mouth whereby that ye
Between your self fall at discord
trust me wel, in case that she
By any meau may maister thee
For the mosse parte all women be
In such case all without pittye
¶ Weake and feeble all beit they be
Of body much impotent
Example dayly yet may ye see
Comberous they be and malfuolent
Harmeles creatures none euel ment
The vpper hand if they once get
Can no moze harme then a Hermefet

¶ Who

¶ Who was so busy as the maid
With crooked language Peeter to appose
Once, twise, or thrise, to him she said
And thou felowe art one of those
The trueth (said he) thy language shose
Peter abashed swore and denaid
and all by reason of the lewd maid.
¶ Some men there be also that say
Be she single or be she wed
to much she coueteth of chamber play
As did Bibles the thing forbed
Presumed to be in her mothers sted
Wirha also inordinately
With her owne father found meanes to lye
¶ The doughters twain of Lot the sage
Hauing like tiple in their talles
Could not refrain their wilful rage
To satisfye with euil halle
their father feasted with costly bread
Made him drunk and so at last
Medled with him he sleeping fast
¶ Examples heerof diuers therbe
to prooue my saying as straig ht as a line
As first of the abhominable Pasiphe
And then the infamat Millaine
Pirra, Fabula, and fair Helne
with other thousands many mo
which all to recite would neuer be doo.
¶ I pray you why was Adam shent
Because he onely did transgresse
Eue him meeued first to consent
To eat of the apple she did him dresse
So all came of her wilfulnes
And sith that woman that offence began

She is more to blame then is the man
¶ The wife of Lot willing also
The wil of God to preuaricate
Out of the Cittie when she should go
Looked behinde her in her gate
To see by proof the prognosticate
Displeased God and she anon
Transformed was into a salt stone.
¶ I pray you what did Queen Atthaly
Look in Paralipomenon
Mother of yung king Othozye
Of all and of all the wilfullest one
Mooued the king aforsaid her sonne
To doo much euil especially
The temple of God for to destroy.
¶ Mighty Sampson two wiues had
The first a Philistian by generation
Neither of them good, but passing bad
and eke to him far out of fasshion
The first him caused by lacrimacion
His probleme to bear, so that be said
When she knew it she him betraid.
¶ The second delt much worse then so
Deceiued him as you shall hear
For she his strength did take him fro
In her lap sleeping she clipt of his hear
Betraied her Lord and her bewpeer
Thus Dalida for meed him serued
And caused his eyes out to be carued.
¶ The wife of Job the man elect
Saluted him with scornes and mocks
And ful vnseemly oft him chect
Saying thou fool ful of the pocks
Ful like a fool thy brest thou knocks

Weenest

Weenest thou for thy fair speech
God wilcome thee for to seech,
¶ Thy praying leue soule thee befall.
Trust me he wil thee neuer heale
Thy beasts thy goods, and thy children all
Be dead and brent now euery deale
And thou liest heer with many a bile
Prating and praying to the deuine
and wurse thou stinkest then a dead swine.
¶ Like wise the wife of olde Thoby
Whose name as I remember was Anne
which him intreated boisterously
With sad rebukes now and than
Called him dziuel and witles man
Because he gaue with hart so liberall
Parte of his goods to the pozall.
¶ The wanton wife of king Pharao
Joseph abhozed with her to lye
In place secret between them two
God fozbid Madame (said he)
Because she sawe it would not be
I chameful lye she did inuent
In prison to cast that innocent
¶ In women all this propertye
Is knowen sure and manifest
That if a man may come so nye
To shew them game that they looue best
and wil not doo it then wil they iest,
But trust me sure that with the hart
They wil neuer looue him afterwart.
¶ The wise man saith in his Prouerbs
A Strumpets lipps are dulce as hony
But in her dealing she is sowze as hearbs
Wozmewood oz Rue, oz wozse saith he

For when them liketh to mock with thee
With tung & eye such semblaunce they showe,
That hard it were them to mistrowe
¶ As though they spake with mouth and hart
With face they make so good semblaunce
That hard it were a man to start
From their fair glosing countenaunce
Thus with their sugred bitternaunce
The simple men that meane but iust
Deceiued are where they moste trust
¶ In case they doo you but one benefit
an hundreth times by you recompenced
They wil you euer with that one twit
With little cause or none offenced
All our demerits shalbe vnrecompenced
So beit lesse or beit more
All is lost ye gaue them before
¶ If ye remoue pour copy holde
and would be tenaunt by Indenture
There is no ware then to be solde
ye must go seek at your aduenture
For as of you I haue no denture
Think that I wil be so redy
Nay by Jesse I holde you a peny.
¶ And then if ye no labour make
ye may be sure that then wil she
Be sure out throwe the hauke to take
The like of her affinitie
Good God how straunge now a daies be ye
I would haue thought ye had been none such
But by the little is knowen the much.
¶ So at length by huth or by cruch
Aesse or more euer they craue
Until thy hand be in thy pouch

No woords preuaile thee to saue
A thousand thousand when they haue
To make a man a thred bare cote
and leaue him neither peny ne grote.
¶ Nowe this is now that they craue alway
One thing or other they neuer rest
Say what ye will they wil no nay
Nor none excuse but their owne request
So they may be trimmed and fed of the best
They haue no remorce who bereth the name
Nor whome they put to open shame
¶ The truethy is knowen as in this case
By holy writ sutenticate
Betweene Thamer and the Iudge Iudas
the Booke called Geneses examinate
How Thamer the widdow in the way sat
Disguised her self in straunge aray
Judas to deceiue after that way.
¶ Her fresh attire and countenaunce therto
Prouoked this man a question to make
She lightly consented as some other doo
Said what wil ye giue thy pleasure to take
Some pledge she said for promise is slack
Of him she required staffe mantel and ring
His minde to folow and doo the thing.
¶ Short tale to make the lawe was then
A woman that found was in adultry
Dew proof alledged by credible men
Should suffer death saunce remedye
The matter appeered by her bely
She openly said in slaunder of Judas
Who oweth these three this deed doon has.
¶ Thus be they all past shame and dreed
And careth not who bid them baile

With ghostly sentence them to feed
Little or nothing dooth them prevaile
Be thy back turned anon they rail
And say for all your counsail good
ye had leuer a bare arse, then a furred hood
¶ To say that they can counsail keep
It were to me a meruailous thing
Onles it be when they doo sleep
Or no body to giue the hearing
Desirous euer of new tiding
And were it matter of lim and life,
It shalbe tolde out by thy wife.
¶ Tully the Romain vpon a day
Thought to approoue his wiues secrye
In councel tolde her he had put away
The Emperours sonne to the end that we
May reign and rule bothe land and sea
Glad was she and yet she went
And him disclosed incontinent.
¶ Tully escaped hard with his like
And all by meane of his one foly
Had not the trueth been knowen beliue
To haue be hanged it was roperdye
Be it therfore true tale or lye
Be wise and ware make or ye wink
And tel not your wife all that ye think
¶ King Salomon bothe witty and wise
A woman dooth assimilate
Unto a dropping euesing guise
Distilling down after rain late
Whose drops vnclean dooth maculate
The finest vesture that any man weres
With colde and wet the body deres.
¶ Euen so a woman litigious

Disquieteth an whole housholde
And who so he be that in his house
Entendeth to keep a woman skolde
The winde that bloweth bothe moist and colde
Were better far for to herbour
and lesse should finde of displeasure
¶ Enuious they be it is dayly seen
And proud also of comparison
Record of Sabba the gorgious Queen
Before nor since was neuer such a one
Because she enuied king Salomon
To proone his wisdome and take with a trip
Passed the seas in a merualous ship
¶ Because that Naboth would not sel
Unto the King of Samaris
The vineyard he had at Israel
Achab the King became angry
As soon as Jesabel the Queen knew why
She straightly cómaunded by writing to fain
Some crime upon Naboth & so he was slain.
¶ Look and read the Book Bocas
And ye shall finde many a reasom
The pride of women to deface
For their misliuing in their season
Good women be wrot were very geason
As ye shall finde of nineteen be wrot
But of the twenty neither letter nor iote.
¶ Salomon saith, three thin-gs here be
Seldome or neuer saturate
Yel the first is of the three
The second a womans water ge-te
The ground of water, insaciate
Of euery lewd fashion recken who can
And euer I warrant the woman is one.

¶ Hard to knowe like number therbee
The fourth to knowe who is he that can
The first which way a bird wil flee
Or of a serpent sprent from a stone
What Hauen a ship shall driue vpon
The craft of a whore perceiue who can
and euer I warrant the woman is one
¶ The ground also dooth vary by thre
The fourth may not be stablished sure
A bond man set in maiestye
A fool fed fat whiles he wil in powre
an odious woman in weddings bre
An heir made of a bond woman
So euer I warrant the woman is one.
¶ Which things remẽbred wel neer eche man
Report of them accordingly
And say plainly that in the woman.
Is little thing of praise worthy
Lettred or vnlearned whether they be
They say of all creatures women are the best
Cuius contrarium verum est.
¶ And were not two small ventalles
The feminine might be glorifide
Set in thrones perpetualles
And as the Goddes be deifide
Two venial sinnes they haue and hide
None of the seuen their names who can tel
They can neither deo nor yet say wel.
¶ So to conclude of this tratise
a finall end, rude though it be
The processe through who wil superuise
Shall wil perceiue I make no lye
In end therfore to make short ly
In my conceit he liueth in rest

That

That medleth with them of all people leſt.

FINIS.

GO foorth little Booke be not afraid
To be accept with them that are wiſe
And ſhew them plain what ſo be ſaid
In any parte of this treatiſe
Dooth not diſdain their honeſties
But for the lewd might haue a mirrour
Heerby to amend their damnable errour
¶ Like as the Preacher dooth diſcommend
All vices liuing with mouth and wil
Or as the Minſtrel dooth intend
With help of Lute, finger or quil
Example ſhewing to conuert the il
Like ſo mine auctor dooth the ſame
No creature liuing ſpoken by name.
¶ Perceaſe any one diſpleaſure take
Becauſe it toucheth her propetly
In caſe that ſhe ſuch waies forſake
Which moſte accordeth to her propertye
She needeth not heerwith to be angry
God graunt vs all we may doo this
For to amend that is amis.
¶ The good alwaies wil be content
With that that is ſpoken in generall
Ther wil none ſo ſoon be diſcontent
as they that fretted be with all
Rub a ſcald horſe vpon the gall
and he wil bite wins, and went
So wil all people that are malevolent
¶ Go foorth therfore among the thick
And bere in minde who is with thee

The woords that Salomon, and Dauid spake
In Iudicum and in Genesye
Hierome, Iuuenall, and olde Tobye
Caton, and Ouid, wil testyfie
And Merciall also who listeth to try
¶ And vnto them that learned be
I would and wil, thou meekely went
And showe them who so made thee
No thing purposed of il intent
That should prohibit the Sacrament
But that the masculine might heerby
Haue some what to iest with the feminy.

FINIS.

¶ Imprinted at London at the long Shop adioyning vnto Saint Mildreds Church in the Pultrie, by John Allde.

15

The Defense of Women

by E. L. Mor.

~~4° C. 39 Art Seld.~~ (17)
S. S. elden d. 45 (17)
321